The Government has been implementing pro-people social security schemes for the workers in the unorganised sector. The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for BPL families in Unorganised Sector has been launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme envisages smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 to the BPL worker's family unit of five. With a view to providing death and disability cover to rural landless households, the 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' has been launched on 2nd October, 2007. Under 'The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)', old age pension has been extended to all 'Below Poverty Line' persons above the age of 65 years.

Indo-Pak Joint Group for export strategy

*346. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Pak Joint Group has been constituted to explore the possibilities of coordinated export strategy in potential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which are the special groups of trade that are proposed to be focussed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Pakistan have constituted a Joint Study Group (JSG). The objective of the JSG is to develop a policy framework to maximize benefits of geographical proximity, identifying opportunities for enhancing economic cooperation and create a framework for facilitation of trade in goods including elements such as customs cooperation, standards, certification system etc. The Sub-Groups of the JSG are as follows:

(i) Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation Measures

(ii) Non-Tariff Barriers

(iii) Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures

(iv) Standards and Conformance

(c) These Sub-Groups are mandated to look into the following:

1. Identification of NTBs existing between India and Pakistan in the bilateral trade.
2. Identification of sectors for mutual cooperation in SPS and TBT issues.
3. To finalize an agreement on SPS & TBT for acceptance of each other's inspection and certification systems.
4. Bilateral agreement on Customs Cooperation on specific bilateral issues.
5. To work towards electronic exchange of information.
6. To mutually extend technical assistance in capacity building , and to identify the areas to which the same can be extended.
7. To exchange list of products under mandatory certification in both countries which can be considered for trade facilitation.